

Message Text

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ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11
IO-13 OIC-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05
HEW-04 /150 W

-----116082 251909Z /42

R 251734Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6793
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
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AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ICFTU, ILO, ELAB

SUBJ: ICFTU BOARD MEETING: KEY DECISIONS

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 9861 (NOTAL)

(B) BRUSSELS 9838 (NOTAL)

1. THE MOST IMPORTANT ACTION TAKEN BY THE ICFTU EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING IN HAMBURG MAY 17-19 WAS TO APPROVE FILING OF AN ILO COMPLAINT AGAINST THE USSR AND POLAND FOR VIOLATING TRADE UNION FREEDOMS (REF A). IN ADDITION, THE BOARD RESOLVED TO "INTENSIFY ACTION FOR THE REESTABLISHMENT OF TRADE UNION FREEDOM IN TUNISIA" (REF B).

2. OTHER SIGNIFICANT DECISIONS, ACCORDING TO ICFTU SOURCES, DEALT WITH:

A. INDONESIA. A DELEGATION OF ICFTU BOARD MEMBERS WILL VISIT INDONESIA AT THE TIME OF THE NEXT CONGRESS OF THE ALL-INDONESIA LABOUR FEDERATION (FBSI), STILL NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SCHEDULED, BUT LIKELY TO BE HELD LATE THIS YEAR. A "FACT-FINDING" GROUP MADE UP OF MEMBERS OF ICFTU AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE SECRETARIAT STAFFERS, WILL GO TO JAKARTA IN A FEW WEEKS AS AN ADVANCE TEAM.

B. WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (WCL). ALTHOUGH THE BOARD PASSED NO RESOLUTION ON RELATIONS WITH THE WCL, THE CONSENSUS WAS THAT THE ICFTU SHOULD LET ITS FUTURE POSTURE TOWARD THE WCL HINGE ON HOW WCL PEOPLE HANDLE THEMSELVES AT THE ILO CONFERENCE IN GENEVA NEXT MONTH: I.E., WHETHER THEY TAKE POSITIONS CLOSE TO THE ICFTU'S OR TO THOSE OF THE EAST EUROPEANS.

C. SOUTH AFRICA. A BOARD RESOLUTION URGES AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS TO "CONTINUE PUTTING STRONGEST PRESSURE ON GOVERNMENTS FOR DISINVESTMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA, ESPECIALLY WHERE UNION RIGHTS ARE DENIED" AND TO "CONTINUE MOBILIZING RANK-AND-FILE PRESSURE CAMPAIGNS ON COMPANIES WITH INVESTMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA, COORDINATED WITH ORGANIZATION EFFORTS INSIDE SOUTH AFRICA."

D. CHILE. THE BOARD ADOPTED (WITHOUT PUBLICITY) A

"CLARIFICATION" OF THE ICFTU'S 1975 CONGRESS RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A BOYCOTT OF CHILE, WHICH HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED BY VERY FEW NATIONAL CENTERS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE NEW ZEALAND FEDERATION OF LABOR (FOL) HAS TAKEN THE RESOLUTION VERY SERIOUSLY, HOWEVER, AND THAT AT THE REQUEST OF THE FOL'S JIM KNOX THE BOARD APPROVED A FURTHER RESOLUTION THAT WILL ALLOW THE FOL TO LIFT ITS SHIPPING BAN ON CHILE WITHOUT ITS LEADERS BEING ACCUSED OF VIOLATING ICFTU POLICY.

E. INTERNATIONAL FAIR LABOR STANDARDS. A 14,000-WORD ICFTU "DEVELOPMENT CHARTER," IN GESTATION FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS, WAS APPROVED. AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE CHARTER ASKS THAT INTERNATIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS INCLUDE "NEW LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RULES...TO ENSURE THAT EXPORTERS IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES MEET MINIMUM FAIR LABOR STANDARDS." (FULL TEXT

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USEEC

OF CHARTER POUCHED TO S/IL.)

F. INTEGRATION OF WOMEN. THE BOARD ENDORSED A PAPER TITLED "THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN INTO TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS," WHICH CALLS FOR THE ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF MORE WOMEN TO TRADE UNION POSITIONS. (THE ICFTU EXECUTIVE BOARD INCLUDES ONLY ONE WOMAN, SHIRLEY CARR, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE CANADIAN LABOR CONGRESS (CLC), WHO TOLD THE ICFTU BOARD THAT IN THE CLC A MALE VICE PRESIDENT IS IN CHARGE OF WOMEN WORKER QUESTIONS.)

G. URUGUAY. THE GENERAL CONFEDERATION OF URUGUAYAN WORKERS (CGTU) WAS SUSPENDED IN HOPES THAT THIS ACTION WOULD HAVE A "SALUTARY IMPACT" WITHIN THE CGTU, E.G., BRINGING ABOUT "REINSTATEMENT OF ALL THE DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNIONISTS WHO HAVE BEEN FORCED TO WITHDRAW FROM THAT CONFEDERATION," ACCORDING TO A SECRETARIAT PAPER.

H. NEXT ICFTU CONGRESS. THE 12TH ICFTU WORLD CONGRESS IS
SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN MADRID OCTOBER 1 TO 5, 1979.
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I. NEW AFFILIATES. APPLICATIONS FOR AFFILIATION WERE
ACCEPTED FROM THE BASUTOLAND FEDERATION OF LABOR, WHICH
CLAIMS 12,000 MEMBERS, AND THE NATIONAL WORKERS UNION
OF THE SEYCHELLES, WHICH CLAIMS 6,000 MEMBERS. A THIRD
NEW AFFILIATE, THE LESOTHO COUNCIL OF WORKERS, WITH A
CLAIMED MEMBERSHIP OF 2,000, WAS ACCEPTED ON THE CONDITION
THAT IT SUPPLY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON ITS MEMBER
UNIONS. HINTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, DECISIONS, SPECIALIZED AGENCIES (UN), LABOR UNIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BRUSSE10217
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780221-0626
Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS USEEC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780324/aaaaauck.tel
Line Count: 241
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5ace12bd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SIL
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BRUSSELS 9861, 78 BRUSSELS 9838
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3200918
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ICFTU BOARD MEETING: KEY DECISIONS
TAGS: ELAB, ICFTU, ILO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5ace12bd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014